

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.-24. (canceled)

25. (currently amended): A method of inhibiting apoptosis in a neuronal cell or a pancreatic cell, comprising contacting said cell with an isolated peptide less than 50 amino acids in length, wherein the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and inhibits the binding of mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase-7 (MKK7) kinase to insulin binding protein 1 (IB1) or insulin binding protein 2 (IB2).

26. (canceled).

27. (currently amended): The method of claim 25, wherein said cell is provided *in vitro*, *in vivo* or *ex vivo*.

28.-29. (canceled)

30. (currently amended): A method of promoting neuronal cell growth, comprising contacting said cell an isolated peptide less than 50 amino acids in length, wherein the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and inhibits the binding of mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase-7 (MKK7) kinase to insulin binding protein 1 (IB1) or insulin binding protein 2 (IB2).

31. (currently amended): A method of inhibiting apoptosis in a neuronal cell or a pancreatic cell, comprising contacting said cell with a chimeric peptide less than 50 amino acids in length, wherein the peptide comprises a first domain and a second domain linked by a covalent bond, wherein said first domain comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 36 and the second domain comprises an SH3 binding peptide having an amino acid sequence

selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein X represents any single amino acid residue, and wherein said chimeric peptide and inhibits the binding of mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase-7 (MKK7) kinase to insulin binding protein 1 (IB1) or insulin binding protein 2 (IB2).

32. (canceled).

33. (currently amended): The method of claim 31, wherein said cell is provided *in vitro*, *in vivo* or *ex vivo*.

34.-35. (canceled)

36. (currently amended): A method of promoting neuronal cell growth, comprising contacting said cell with a chimeric peptide less than 50 amino acids in length, wherein the peptide comprises a first domain and a second domain linked by a covalent bond, wherein said first domain comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 36 and the second domain comprises an SH3 binding peptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein X represents any single amino acid residue, and wherein said chimeric peptide and inhibits the binding of mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase-7 (MKK7) kinase to insulin binding protein 1 (IB1) or insulin binding protein 2 (IB2).